

Police Forces (Ireland) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Clause.

1. Military character of force to be altered.
 2. Chief Secretary to make rules for equipment as a civil force.
 3. To be lettered and numbered according to the location of service.
 4. May be suspended by stipendiary or two justices for misconduct.
 5. Suspension to be reported to commissioners.
 6. Shadowing.
 7. Constable or police officer incapacitated for twelve months to be a stipendiary or justice of the peace.
 8. Order of superior not to justify illegal acts.
 9. Short title.
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B I L L

FOR

The better Regulation of the Police Forces in Ireland.

A.D. 1891.

BE it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :

- 5 1. From and after the *passing of this Act* the Dublin police, the constabulary force, and any other police or constabulary force existing or established in Ireland shall cease to be a force armed or equipped as such force with rifles, revolvers, swords, or bayonets, or with any military or warlike arms, or any weapons of offence or
10 defence other than such as are commonly used and employed in the police or constabulary forces of England and Wales.

Military character of force to be altered.

2. Subject to the foregoing provision, and for the carrying out of the same and the other provisions in this Act contained, the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland shall make such
15 rules as may be necessary or expedient with regard to the government, accoutrement, clothing, and regulation of the police forces in Ireland, and all such rules shall be binding upon all whom they may concern, and copies of all such rules shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within six weeks after the making thereof,
20 if Parliament be then sitting, and if Parliament is not then sitting, within six weeks after the next meeting of Parliament.

Chief Secretary to make rules for equipment in a civil force.

3. The constables within each city or county, or each division of a county where, for purposes of police administration, a county is divided into two or more separate police districts, whether urban
25 or rural, shall, whilst serving in such police districts, form a distinct section or branch of the force to be described, designated, and known by the name of such county, division, city, or borough, or other police district, and shall have such designation, or some contraction or initial signifying the same, together with a number
30 denoting the individual, affixed or attached in a conspicuous place

To be lettered and numbered according to the location of service.

[Bill 125.]

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A.D. 1891. on the collar of the dress or uniform of each member of the said force under the rank of a sub-inspector, and upon the removal or transfer of any constable or sub-constable so numbered and initialed from one county, division, city, or borough, or police district to any other county, division, city, or borough, or other police district, a 5 corresponding alteration shall be made in the lettering and numbering by which the officer so removed or transferred shall be known and designated.

May be suspended by stipendiary or two justices for misconduct.

4. Any stipendiary or resident magistrate, or any two justices of the peace in petty sessions, may suspend any constable whom they find guilty of any offence punishable by imprisonment, or any gross misconduct, or breach or neglect of his duty as a constable, and upon such suspension, shall report the same to the inspector-general of the constabulary for Ireland, and upon such suspension, and until the same has been adjudicated upon on such report, all 15 powers vested in him as such constable shall cease and remain suspended.

Suspension to be reported to constable-clerks.

5. The magistrate or justices suspending any constable by virtue of the powers in the last section conferred shall, within one week of such suspension, report the same and the cause thereof to the 20 inspector-general of constabulary, who shall thereupon inquire into the same, and dismiss, remove, suspend, reduce, or otherwise deal with such constable as the good order of the force and the justice of the case may require.

Shadowing.

6. No police officer or constable shall, except for the purpose 25 and in the course of making a legal arrest or apprehension of a person upon a charge justifying arrest without warrant or upon a warrant duly authorising such arrest, shall pursue, follow about, shadow, or otherwise beset, molest, or interfere with any person in the Queen's peace, and against whom or for the apprehension of 30 whom he is not furnished with and in the possession of such warrant as aforesaid; and any constable or police or constabulary officer, or person acting or purporting to act as such, who shall so shadow, beset, or follow about any person without such authority or warrant as herein provided, or, having such warrant, fails upon 35 the demand of the person so shadowed or beset to produce and read the same, and to desist from such shadowing or molestation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable upon conviction thereof to a punishment of not exceeding *six months* imprisonment with hard labour.

Constable or police officer incapacitated

7. No person holding the commission or appointment of a constable or constabulary officer shall within twelve months of 40

the time of ceasing to hold such commission or appointment be qualified to hold or to be appointed to the commission of the peace, or the office of stipendiary or resident magistrate or commissioner under or for the administration of the Criminal Law and Procedure Act, 1887, anything in the second and third Victoria, chapter seventy-five, section fourteen, to the contrary notwithstanding.

A.D. 1891.

for
12 months
to be a
stipendiary
or justice of
the peace.

8. No act of a police constable in itself a breach of the peace, or an act done in derogation of the right of public meeting or of the freedom of the press, unless where the same is done under proper and sufficient legal warrant, shall be held justified or justifiable on the ground that the same was done under superior orders, nor shall any commitment or prosecution for any such act, if criminal, be barred or superseded or put a stop to by *non* prosequi, nor shall the constable or constables by whom such acts are done be exempted from legal liability or proceedings, either civil or criminal, unless where done under the authority of a legal warrant issued to such constable by competent authority, and which such constable shall have in his possession at the time of executing the same, and which, if required, such constable shall produce and read to the person whom he is about to interfere with or arrest, or whose house he proposes to enter, or whose goods he proposes to seize or remove.

Order of
superior not
to justify
illegal acts.

9. This Act may be cited as the Police Forces (Ireland) Act, 1891.

Police Forces (Ireland).

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**For the better Regulation of the Police
Forces in Ireland.**

*(Proposed and brought in by
Mr. Curran, Mr. Sturges Read,
Mr. Sturgeon, Mr. Sturt, Mr. Sturt,
Mr. Sturt, Mr. Sturt, and Mr. Sturt.)*

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